Export of flowers

4222. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and varieties of flowers exported during the last three years alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned with the names of exportee countries;

(b) the names of the states from which these exports were made; and

(c) the amount of money allocated for the development of floriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The export figures of flowers are maintained in two broad categories i.e. (i) cut flowers; and (ii) dried flowers. The details of the foreign-exchange earned by the export of these flowers during the last three years are:—

	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Rs. in US $		Rs. in US $		Rs. in US $	
	lakhs	million*	lakhs	million*	lakhs	million*
Cut flowers	4.90	0.027	39.90	0.163	108.98	0.382
Dried flowers	25.54	0.142	643.51	2.629	743.12	2.603
	30.44	0.169	683.41	2.792	852.10	2.985

(* Exchange rate applied during 90-91 is 1 US $ = Rs. 17.943 during 91-92 is 1 US $ = Rs. 24.474 and during 92-93 is 1 US $ = Rs. 28.546)

The flowers are exported to USA, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Italy UAE, Oman, Australia, Netherlands, Egypt and France etc.

(b) The information regarding the names of States from which flowers are exported is not maintained.

(c) The total outlay for the Central Sector Scheme on commercial floriculture during the Eighth Five year Plan is Rs. 10 crores.

Export of flowers from Sikkim

4223. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flowers are exported from Sikkim and Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, what are the varieties of flowers, to what countries they were exported and what was the amount of money earned from such exports during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of varieties exported and revenue earned from export of flowers from these areas are not available.

Food damaged due to weeds

4224. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major percentage of food production of the country is damaged due to weeds;

(b) if so, its percentage in the country and names of the states which are adversely affected by the weeds; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, on an average crop yield losses due to menace of weed growth has been estimated from 15 to 20% in the country. Infestation of weed is more in high rainfall areas like North Eastern Region, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and irrigated belts of other states.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to check the weed menace in various crops in the country:—

(1) Education the farmers about cultural, mechanical and chemical methods of weed control including proper use of weedicides:

(2) Ensuring timely availability of quality weedicides for the control of weeds in all States/ UTs